

Jill Robie-Axtell to Pat Morgan:

Thank you. When I was asked to introduce Pat Morgan, I asked her for some information, and in a typical Pat Morgan way, I got a lot of information about the Beagary Trust, which is consistent because it's what Pat has dedicated her life to. After getting to know Pat a little bit kind of woman to woman, I had just come fresh off a divorce, and Pat and I sat down in the Y café one time, and Pat and I were talking, and she told me about her husband, her late husband John, and the work they had done together with the Beagary Trust and how that had become something she has dedicated her life to. So it didn't surprise me when I opened up the envelope that was left on my desk and saw a lot of the information that she wanted me to share with you tonight about the work that the Beagary Trust is doing not only here on the Island but also in northeast Connecticut where she resides.

So I will say a couple things about Pat though as a person. Pat has been on our board of directors for three years. She also serves on our advisory board. Pat is a fearless woman. Pat is the person who sits in our board meeting when everybody else kind of doesn't necessarily know what to say, and raises her hand. Pat is the one when we say 'we're going to raise three million dollars in endowment in twelve months' and everyone says no, Pat said 'I'll be the first one to give. I'll be the one everyone needs to follow.' And for that I'm truly grateful for having her part of our team, and I know you're lucky to have her part of yours.

What's also interesting to me is the number of people who will come to the Island and be parts of these organizations even though this isn't their home. You know normally when you live someplace you're going to embrace the organizations that are part of your home, but for Pat she embraces the Island. The Island is her summer home, but it's not her only home, but she embraces all the organizations she's involved with as if she was here twelve months out of the year. And actually, she commutes here twelve months out of the year because I know she's in attendance at our board meetings almost every month, so I'm very thankful for that as well.

On the Island, in addition to her work with the Museum, she's on the board of the Martha's Vineyard Preservation Trust giving grants for preservation projects and hopefully every year getting the Boathouse for the fireworks at their fundraiser, so that some of us can enjoy the fireworks. She's also on the advisory board for Sail MV. She's given grants for maritime education programs at the high school and donates to support sailing programs at the high school and summer camp. She also donates to the Boys and Girls Club for their summer camp program.

In addition to being on our board, she has been very generous at supporting our after school programs, our teen center programs, and our summer camp. And just a funny aside, her granddaughter Sam who's also here, was one of our camp counselors last year, and Pat said she gives 'other things.' And I know what 'other things' are. And that is when we had a really hot summer day at the Y for camp, and Sam was a counselor, and suddenly we had this limp child who had been out in the sun and was sick and was being carried into the aquatic office so she could lie down on a cot, and Pat's sitting in the café watching this go on

and saying 'that child's too heavy to be carried around by the counselor.' Two weeks later, we had a wheelchair courtesy of Pat, so if that we ever had a child who was sick at camp and a counselor who was too small to carry them, we had a wheelchair. So those are the 'other things.' I'm sure there are more.

In addition she is heavily involved in off-island things as well particularly in northeast Connecticut. One of the other places she's very generous is another YMCA actually that's getting off the ground. In addition to that she's doing educational grants to schools in eleven towns for music, performing arts, science, and sports programs. She's involved in outreach educational programs at Old Sturbridge Village and Mystic Seaport, grants working with fifth grades in the eleven towns. Over 1,000 kids are benefitting from this.

So the list goes on. I want to say that I am very very lucky to know Pat both on a personal level and on a professional level. She's the board member that I can always count on when I say "gee do you want to go brainstorm something?" and that always involves a glass or two of wine, which I always appreciate. And it seems like we get better ideas the more... And I do appreciate that Pat. You're a wonderful woman; very very lucky to have you on the island and share your time and treasure with us, all of our organizations. And I'm very honored to present you with the 2015 Martha's Vineyard Medal.